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Birge Watkins Confirmed as Deputy Assistant Secretary

Bringing his experience from both the public and private sectors, Birge Watkins is looking forward to his position as the new Deputy Assistant Secretary for Food and Consumer Services.

"My primary role is to work with the different outside interest groups and to make sure our Administration's policies and positions on various issues are known to them and vice-versa. I'd like to maintain an open-door policy with these groups," Watkins said.

Watkins, whose first day on the job was November 13, added that he will rely on his past experience, both academic and practical, in the policy process. He will help Assistant Secretary for Food and Consumer Services Catherine Bertini in managing USDA's Food and Nutrition Service, Human Nutrition Information Service, and Office of the Consumer Advisor.

His experience includes work on the Bush Transition Team and on President Ford's White House staff. He also served in the Agency for International Development with the Bureau for Science and Technology, the Bureau for Private Enterprise, and was Assistant Director of President Reagan's Task Force on International Private Enterprise. A Michigan native, Watkins holds an MBA from London Business School and an MPA from Harvard University.

-Story by Lisa Yue
Office of Governmental Affairs
and Public Information

Marilyn Quayle Briefed on St. Croix Devastation

In October, Marilyn Quayle visited the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) office at St. Croix, Virgin Islands. She received a complete briefing from Steve Robbins, MARO Food Distribution Division unit supervisor, on Federal disaster assistance to that Hurricane Hugo-ravaged island.



From left are Marilyn Quayle, Steve Robbins, and a Forest Service employee.

After a briefing by (FEMA) officials, the Vice President's wife went around the room shaking hands with representatives of the various agencies involved in the relief effort.

As Robbins introduced himself, he related to Mrs. Quayle the super effort of FNS in delivering more than 4-million pounds of commodities to St. Croix within a very tight timeframe. "That's a lot of food," Mrs. Quayle said. "And from what I've seen today, it's really needed."

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Robbins along with the Caribbean area office staff had just spent weeks at St. Croix tirelessly working with all the public and private agencies involved in getting food to the island and distributed to the disaster victims. Their 16- and 18-hour days were filled with crisis after crisis involving the massive air and sea shipments of food.

"It was a lot of hard work and sometimes very frustrating," Robbins said. "When I talked to Mrs. Quayle, she was extremely appreciative of the work we were doing."

-Story by MARO Public Affairs Staff
Photo by Larry Rana
Photography Division, OGPA

MARO Employees Aid in Hugo's Relief Effort

MARO employees aided in the relief effort for the victims of Hurricane Hugo in Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. They donated money, clothing, toiletries, and other items to help these devastated areas.

Hugo left its effect on a number of MARO employees who have friends and relatives on the islands. There were many anxious moments after the storm, as worried workers tried to contact their friends and relatives.

Some employees have said that their relatives may have to relocate to the continental United States because of the massive destruction. Other employees have sent needed medicines and supplies directly to their friends and relatives.

-Story by Kim Jabat
MARO Public Affairs Staff

The Aftermath of Hurricane Hugo



Urban damage, primarily in Charleston, was matched by damage to dwellings, commercial establishments, agricultural crops, forests, and public utilities in rural parts of the state. FNS emergency food assistance planning and contacts began at SERO headquarters several days before the hurricane made landfall. This was followed by on-site coordination in Columbia and Charleston which lasted approximately 3 weeks after Hugo struck. With SERO Administrator Virgil Conrad's encouragement, SERO volunteers flooded into South Carolina to help during the food assistance emergency.



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SERO employees (clockwise from top) Leo Davenport, Phil Turner, Jerry Redding, Tonia Harr, and John Buchanan coordinated FNS assistance with the South Carolina Department of Social Services (DSS) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency from DSS headquarters in Columbia the first few days of the emergency.



Dean Baltzgar (right), SERO food program specialist in the Columbia, South Carolina, Field Office, serves as a volunteer certification worker in Sumter County during the disaster. Sixty SERO employees, from the regional office and field offices, volunteered their assistance to aid with emergency food stamp issuance in the 23 disaster-declared South Carolina counties. More than \$62.3 million worth of food stamp coupons were issued during the 10-day emergency issuance window.



SERO Food Stamp Program Director Phil Turner (left) and Columbia, South Carolina, Officer in Charge Tonia Harr (center) discuss emergency food assistance efforts with a county official at a USDA commodity staging warehouse in Berkeley County 4 days after the hurricane struck. About 1.3 million pounds of USDA commodities were distributed in South Carolina during the first week of the emergency. Twenty-eight truckloads of Government food were shipped into the devastated area from Georgia, North Carolina, and unaffected areas of South Carolina. Commodities were used both at mass feeding sites and in individual family food packs.

-Captions by SERO
Public Affairs Staff
Photos by Bob Nichols
Photography Division, OGPA

WRO Staffers Respond in Times of Disaster

More than 3 weeks after the earthquake, Northern Californians are still experiencing the seismic and emotional aftershocks of the 7.1-degree quake that rocked the area on October 17.

Everyone can tell you where they were when the quake hit--many were still in

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the office, others were in transit, hurrying to get home to watch the third game of the World Series. Mike Denton, non-school programs chief, and Sylvia Ruiz and Sylvia Dower, Financial Management, were at Candlestick Park to cheer for the Giants. Thanh Huynh, a student aide in Administrative Services, was in Union Square when it hit, and was filmed on CNN disaster coverage as he assisted medical staff with the injured. Pat Cruise, Food Stamp Program, had just exited from highway 880, shortly before the Cypress section she had left collapsed. Sharon Parker, personnel specialist, was in a van that had just left the Bay Bridge. But most will tell you they did not realize the severity of the temblor until media reports came in on radio or on T.V. in areas where electricity was not disrupted.

WRO staffers were quick to respond to the situation, although many were unable to get home until the wee hours of the following morning. Acting Regional Administrator Jack Boozer, Food Distribution Director Dennis Stewart, and Personnel Director Steve Taylor reported for work the next day, although there was no power and the building had not been inspected for structural damage. When problems with the phone lines made it pointless to stay, Boozer and Stewart went to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Region 9 offices at the Presidio of San Francisco where they joined other Federal workers at the temporary disaster field office trying to assess damage and respond to state requests for assistance.

Regional Public Affairs Director Dick Montoya reported to the FEMA offices at the Presidio the morning after the quake. He worked straight through the weekend before departing for the FEMA disaster field office in Mountain View, closer to the quake's epicenter. There he worked for another 6 straight days before finally having a Sunday off to check his own home for structural damage. Jackie Henry, assistant to the disaster coordinator, reported to the



Golden Gate Bank--financial district near the Embarcadero.



Demolition of building across from Golden Gate Bank.

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Minor damage near Pyramid Building
(Chinese District).



Ruins from fire in Marina district.
Background: Palace of Fine Arts built
for 1939 World's Fair.

regional office when it reopened on Monday and immediately left for the FEMA disaster field office in Mountain View to establish personal contact with state and Federal disaster officials. Thereafter, working out of the regional office, occasionally traveling the 50 miles to Mountain View, she kept FEMA informed of how the agency was responding to state requests for disaster food assistance.

Emergency food stamps were issued in San Benito County, where the quake was centered, and later in Santa Cruz County. Damage was severe in both areas, with many of those affected being low-income and migrant farmworkers. Nearly \$450,000 dollars in emergency food stamps were issued in Santa Cruz County to more than 1,800 households. Food program specialist Judy Yudico is one of many WRO Food Stamp Program staffers who assisted county staff in the emergency certification. Yudico herself was a disaster victim. Her apartment, located in the hard-hit Marina district of San Francisco, was in a building placed on limited entry status for several days, and she went weeks without hot water and gas as the mains were being repaired. Anne Silverman, also a food program specialist and Federal Women's Program Manager, assisted the county operations as well. Although largely unaffected by the quake herself, she shared with other WRO employees the story of an eligibility worker in hard-hit Watsonville who spent long hours certifying disaster victims for emergency food stamps although he, his wife, and four children lost everything in the quake.

Because of the large Hispanic population in the Santa Cruz area, five Spanish-speaking WRO food program specialists spent several days in the hard hit area assisting state and local food stamp workers certify households for emergency food stamp assistance.

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In addition to Yudico, bilingual WRO staff were: Betty Dixon, Julia Haugen, Peter Bauer, and Michael Jacobs.

Silverman has been heading up the region's FWP-sponsored drive to collect funds to aid earthquake victims. Contributions from the Western Region "have been most generous," Silverman said, adding that she was pleased to see the tremendous generosity extended not only by the regional office but by the field offices as well.

-Story by Dee Amaden
Photos by Kristen Bole
WRO Public Affairs Staff



Rubble from block fire in Marina.



Cars demolished in fall of a Marina apartment building.



Apartment building across from block fire.

Snapshots of a "Disaster" Zone

The assignment was to photograph the earthquake damage. After two weeks of newspapers filled with shots of the quake's toll, I couldn't imagine needing more than a couple rolls of film; everyone had already seen the drama. I loaded the camera, threw in a few extra rolls "just in case," and headed down through the financial district en route to the Marina, the San Francisco area shaken up the most in the October 17 quake.

Of course the regular bus to the Marina wasn't running, so I walked most of the way--something that newspaper photographers evidently didn't have time to do. They went directly to the disaster spots: the Bay Bridge, the Nimitz freeway, the burned block. What rarely made the papers were the signs of damage in everyday life--the cracks in nearly every building in some areas, the fragility of entire neighborhoods, the appearance in others that nothing had happened. What you never saw were the blocks left undamaged except for one house, now held up with make-shift wooden columns, with the Emergency Entrance Only sign on the front. What never made the front page were the ironing boards lying in the street next to ice cream makers, handwoven baskets,

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Second floor apartment at ground level in Marina.



Household goods salvaged from a demolished apartment building.



Another building supported by makeshift columns and 2" by 4"s.

shoes--all salvaged from the now-bare lot beside them--and a "For Rent, SAFE" sign on the house down the block. Reporters did not mention the difficulty of walking on sidewalks with sections that overlapped.

The only way to deal with seeing that much stability and destruction together seems to be to try to record it. Futilely, I looked for THE photo of the quake, the one that would show exactly how it felt to walk across town--the one that showed the woman by the burned block who pointed out a flattened chunk of metal and said, "That's my truck. The gray one." I kept thinking "this is THE shot," and I'd take it. Then I'd turn and see another, and then walk three steps and take another. I stopped when I ran out of film.

On November 9, 23 days after the temblor, I again set out on a photo assignment, this time to the Nimitz freeway. By the time I signed in at the Cypress Earthquake Disaster Center to pick up an I.D. card and fluorescent orange safety vest, I had almost finished a roll--without crossing the police barriers. A Caltrans Disaster Site employee took me as far as he could go in a pick-up and apologized for not being able to drive through the best areas that day because of the demolition. He pointed them out, lent me his hardhat, warned me once more to watch out for the wrecking ball, and I headed out on foot. On the top level of the freeway, looking over the sheered-off edge to the pile of asphalt and rebar below, a construction worker turned to me with that frozen look people have when they watch a house burn down. "It's just too big to understand," he said. "Too big." After seven rolls of film, I felt the same way.

-Story and photos by Kristen Bole
WRO Public Affairs Staff

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One of many shattered facades in the Marina.



More shattered Marina facades.



Sidewalk in front of undamaged house in Marina.



Another cracked facade.



More shattered Marina facades.



Columns constructed to hold up an unsafe house.



Cypress structure
(highway 880).



More of Cypress structure

More Cypress Photos



Preliminary Summary of Food Assistance Program Results for September 1989

Following are preliminary estimates of participation in the Federal-State food assistance programs for the month of September with comparisons to the previous month and to the same month of last year.

	<u>Sep. 1988</u>	<u>Aug. 1989</u>	<u>Sep. 1989</u> 2/
<u>Food Stamp Program: 1/</u>			
People participating (mil.)	18.4	18.7	18.9
Value of bonus coupons (\$ mil.)	917.0	962.4	983.1
Average bonus per person	\$ 49.96	\$ 51.43	\$ 51.98
Total program cost (\$ mil.)	1,017.7	1,064.5	1,085.2
<u>National School Lunch Program:</u>			
Number of schools participating (thous.)	90.6	91.5	91.5
Children participating (mil.)	23.9	4.0	23.6
Children reached with free or reduced price lunches (mil.)	10.6	2.3	11.1
Percentage of lunches served free	38.4	59.2	38.7
Percentage of lunches served at reduced price.	5.6	5.5	5.8
Total program cost (\$ mil.)	370.6	59.8	369.3
<u>School Breakfast Program:</u>			
Number of schools participating (thous.)	38.8	40.0	40.0
Children participating (mil.)	3.5	0.8	3.6
Percentage of breakfasts served free or at reduced price	86.1	92.0	85.5
Total program cost (\$ mil.)	49.7	10.3	55.4
<u>Child Care Food Program:</u>			
Number of meals served in centers (mil.)	36.5	32.3	36.5
Number of meals served in homes (mil.)	31.0	37.6	35.3
Percentage of all meals served free	78.0	78.6	78.2
Total program cost (\$ mil.)	52.3	57.7	59.3
<u>Special Supplemental Food Program (WIC):</u>			
People participating (mil.)	3.7	4.4	4.4
Food cost (\$ mil.)	121.0	130.9	130.4
Total program cost (\$ mil.)	164.6	170.9	168.9
<u>Commodity Supplemental Food Program: 3/</u>			
People participating (thous.)	217.3	271.1	285.1
Total program cost (\$ mil.)	4.3	4.6	5.2
<u>Food Distribution to Indians and Needy Families:</u>			
Number of projects in operation	108	109	109
People participating (thous.)	133.2	147.8	144.3
Total program cost (\$ mil.)	4.4	4.8	4.7
<u>Temporary Emergency Food Assistance Program:</u>			
Total USDA cost (\$ mil.)	27.1	15.6	15.5

1/ Puerto Rico has been excluded from all months.

2/ Data collected as of November 21, 1989.

3/ Includes data for all elderly participants.

Friday Letter Vacancy Listing by Vacancy Number

JOB TITLE	AREA OF CONSID.	SERIES	GRADE	CLOSING DATE	VACANCY NUMBER	OFFICE LOCATION
o Regional Adm	(A)	ES-0120		12/04/89	89-57*	WRO
o Food Prog Spec	(A)	GS-0120	5/7	01/31/90	90-B	FNS
o Secretary (Typing)	(A)	GS-0318	5/6	12/04/89	90-06*	ASD
o Supv Program Analyst	(FNS-N)	GM-0345	14	12/04/89	90-12**	OAE
o Secretary (Typing)	(G)	GS-0318	5/6	12/04/89	90-13	PED
o Food Prog Spec	(FNS-HQ)	GS-0120	12	12/11/89	90-15	NTSD
o Food Prog Spec	(A)	GS-0120	12	12/11/89	90-15A	NTSD
o Supv Pers Mgmt Spec	(G)	GS-0201	12	12/11/89	90-16	MWRO
o Visual Info Spec	(FNS-HQ)	GS-1084	7	12/05/89	90-17	OGAPI
o Secretary (Typing)	(FNS-HQ)	GS-0318	7/8	12/06/89	90-18	DAFM
o Economist	(A)	GS-0110	9/12	01/08/90	90-H-19	HNIS

Office Location

ASD - Administrative Services Division
 HNIS - Human Nutrition Information Service
 OAE - Office of Analysis and Evaluation
 NTSD - Nutrition and Technical Services Div
 OGAPI- Office of Governmental Affairs and Public Information
 MWRO - Midwest Regional Office
 FNS - FNS Regions and Hdqrs
 WRO - Western Regional Office
 PED - Personnel Division
 DAFM - Deputy Administrator for Financial Management

Area of Consideration

(A) - All Sources
 (G) - Governmentwide
 (FNS-HQ)- Food and Nutrition Service-Hdqrs
 (FNS-N) - Food and Nutrition Service-Nationwide

* Reannouncement

** (Temp promotion NTE 8/19/90)

Mary E. Kennedy, Editor

The Friday Letter is published every two weeks by the Public Information Staff of the Food and Nutrition Service. To update mailing address or to alter number of copies received, please mail changes to the FNS Public Information Staff, 3101 Park Center Drive, Room 823, Alexandria, VA 22302, telephone 756-3000.